

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means and a bell shape with an arched opening; and
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and
respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,
wherein the one or more side blocks comprises a include-body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part and wherein the body part contact means has a bell shape with an arched opening.
~~the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means; and~~
~~the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective attachment means.~~
2. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body part contact means comprises a foam pad.
3. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body part contact means comprises a hook and loop fabric type-style fastener.
4. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means has a shape which substantially corresponds to the shape of a mating face of said

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side block to which said body part contact means is removably attached.

5. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means is of a color which is dissimilar to the color of said side block to which said body part contact means is removably attached.

6. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means is removably attached to said corresponding side block by means of a two-sided adhesive fastener.

7. (Currently Amended) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said replaceable body part contact means allows for re-use of said corresponding side block.

8. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein the one or more side blocks further comprise strap fastening means removably attached thereto for removably fastening a restraining strap extending across a body part.

9. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein the strap fastening means is rotatable so that a surface of the extended strap is adjustable to a particular angle.

10. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein said strap fastening means comprises a hook and loop fabric type-style fastener.

11. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein the strap fastening means is disposed at a particular angle so that a surface of the extended strap is at said angle.

12. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein said body part contact means and said strap are capable of being easily removed, decontaminated and replaced.

13. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means are removably attached to the corresponding side block by extending fastening

means through corresponding openings in said body part contact means to engage said corresponding side block.

14. (Original) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means; ~~and~~

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means;

a plunger-type lock ~~respective attachment means~~ for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means by depressing the plunger-type lock;

~~wherein the base includes body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part;~~

~~the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means; and~~

~~the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective attachment means.~~

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means; and

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means;

respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,

wherein the one or more side blocks comprise strap fastening means removably attached thereto for fastening a strap extended across the body part,

the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means, and

the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective attachment means.

18. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the strap fastening means is rotatable so that a surface of the extended strap is adjustable to a particular angle.

19. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the strap fastening means comprises a hook and loop fabric type-style fastener.

20. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the strap fastening means is disposed at a particular angle so that a surface of the extended strap is at said angle.

21. (Withdrawn) A side block attachable to a base for forming a body part immobilization apparatus for immobilizing a body part, said side block comprising:
first strap fastening means removably attached thereto for fastening a strap extendible across the body part to a corresponding side block attached to the base; and
second strap fastening means removably attached thereto for fastening a corresponding strap extended across the body part from the corresponding side block, wherein
the first strap fastening means is adjustable so that a surface of the extended strap is adjustable to a particular angle, and
the second strap fastening means is adjustable so that a surface of the corresponding strap is adjustable to a corresponding angle to the particular angle for fitting the body part.

22. (Withdrawn) The side block of claim 21, wherein the first and second strap fastening means comprise hook and loop fabric tape-style fasteners.

23. (Withdrawn) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of the body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means; and
a spine board for supporting at least a body part at a portion of said spine board, said spine board having adjustable engagement means; and
respective attachment means for adjustably attaching the one or more side blocks to the spine board by engaging the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,
wherein the one or more side blocks include body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part,
the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the spine board by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means, and
the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating around the respective attachment means.
24. (Withdrawn) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of the body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means; and
a spine board for supporting at least a body part at a portion of said spine board, said spine board having adjustable engagement means; and
respective attachment means for adjustably attaching the one or more side blocks to the spine board by engaging the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,
wherein the spine board includes body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part,
the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the spine board by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means, and

the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating around the respective attachment means.

25. (Withdrawn) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks each having a respective elongated slot; and
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having at least one elongated track corresponding to the one or more side blocks;
respective lock members for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging the respective elongated slot and the at least one elongated track,
wherein each of the one or more side blocks includes a contact pad removably attached thereto for contacting the body part,
the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective lock members along the respective elongated slot and the at least one elongated track, and
the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective lock members.

26. (Withdrawn) A kit for a body part immobilization apparatus including one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part and a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said kit comprising:

first body part contact means to be removably attached to said one or more side blocks for contacting the body part;

second body part contact means to be removably attached to said base for contacting a body part; and

strap fastening means to be removably attached to said one or more side blocks for fastening a strap extending across a body part.

27. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 wherein said first and second body part contact means comprise foam pads.

28. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 wherein said first and second body part contact means comprise a hook and loop fastener.

29. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 wherein said first body part contact means is a two-sided adhesive fastener.

30. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 wherein said first body part contact means has a shape which substantially corresponds to the shape of a mating face of said side block to which said body part contact means is removably attached.

31. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 wherein said first and second body part contact means are of a color dissimilar to the color of the side block to which said first and second body contact means are to be removably attached.

32. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 26 and further comprising first and second fastening means for removably attaching said first and second body part contact means to said one or more side blocks.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Withdrawn) A body part immobilization apparatus comprising:
a neck band for supporting the neck of a patient;
a mandible support for supporting the mandible of a patient, said mandible support having a chin piece for supporting the chin of a patient; and
first and second body part contact means removably attached respectively to said neck band and said chin piece for contacting the neck and chin of the patient.

35. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 34 wherein said first body part contact means is of a shape which is substantially the shape of said neck band.

36. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 34 wherein said first body part contact means is removably attached to said neck band by first fastening means.

37. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 34 wherein said second body contact part means overlies a portion of said chin piece.

38. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 34 wherein said first and second body part contact means are foam pads.

39. (Withdrawn) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 34 wherein said second body part contact means is removably attached to said chin piece by second fastening means.

40. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means each comprise an elongated slot and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises means for engaging at least one of the elongated slots.

41. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of the elongated slots comprises a plurality of teeth, and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages at least one of the plurality of teeth in the elongated slot having the plurality of teeth.

42. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means each comprise an elongated slot, at least one of the elongated slots comprising a rack, and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack.

43. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 42, wherein the flexible finger comprises a tooth that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack.

44. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more of the side blocks comprises a plurality of teeth and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises at least one corresponding tooth that engages one or more of the plurality of teeth of the side block when the plunger-type lock is depressed.

45. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plunger-type lock comprises means for disengaging the lock from at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means.

46. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plunger-type lock adjustably attaches one or more of the side blocks to the base in a first stage and a second stage, in the first stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in a vertical plane and in the second stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in at least one of longitudinally and laterally by further depressing the plunger-type lock when in the first stage.

47. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or more side block comprises a body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part.

48. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means;
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means;
a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means, wherein the plunger-type lock adjustably attaches one or more of the side blocks to the base in a first stage and a second stage, in the first stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in a vertical plane and in the second stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in at least one of longitudinally and laterally by further depressing the plunger-type lock when in the first stage.

49. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having an elongated slot disposed therein;
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having an elongated slot disposed therein; and
a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the elongated slots, wherein at least one of the elongated slots comprises a rack and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack by depressing the plunger-type lock to restrict vertical movement.
50. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part;
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks; and
a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base, wherein one or more of the side blocks comprises a plurality of teeth and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises at least one corresponding tooth that engages one or more of the plurality of teeth of the side block when the plunger-type lock is depressed.
51. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means;
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and
a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the elongated slots, wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion comprises means for engaging the respective positional engagement means and the bottom portion comprises means for engaging the adjustable engagement means by depressing the plunger-type lock.

52. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the arched opening of the contact means has a vertical height that is greater than its longitudinal width.

53. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the arched opening of the contact means comprises a first curve disposed between two other curves and wherein the first curve has a radius smaller than the radius of the other curves.

54. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the contact means has an outer bell shape with a plurality of projections extending therefrom.

55. (New) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 52, wherein the outer bell shape of the contact means and the plurality of projections extending therefrom are essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis.

56. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:
one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means and a bell shape with an arched opening;
a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and
respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,
wherein the one or more side blocks comprises a body part contact means having an outer bell shape with an arched opening removably attached to the side block for contacting the body part, the arched opening comprising at least at least one curved portion, and outer bell shape having a plurality of projections extending therefrom essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis.

57. (New) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means comprising an elongated slot;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means comprising an elongated slot; and

respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base, wherein the respective attachment means comprises a flexible finger that engages at least one of the elongated slots in the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means.

58. (New) A pad removably attached to a side block for securing at least one side of a body part, the pad comprising:

an outer bell shape with a plurality of projections extending therefrom essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis; and

an arched opening comprising a first curve disposed between two other curves, the first curve having a radius smaller than the radius of the other curves.

59. (New) The pad of claim 58, wherein each of the projections extending from the outer bell shape corresponds to projections on the side block.

60. (New) The pad of claim 58, wherein each of the projections has a shape comprising a first and second segments each extending from the outer bell shape and a third segment disposed between the first and second segment essentially orthogonal to the first and second segments.

61. (New) A side block for securing at least one side of a body part, the side block comprising:

position engagement means disposed on a first portion of the side block;

head immobilizing means disposed on another side of the side block; and

at least one portion having a tapered-wall bell shaped cross section.

62. (New) The side block of claim 61, wherein the at least one portion having a tapered-wall cross section is disposed between the first portion and the second portion of the side block.